

**NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2020**

 **WOODLEY BAPTIST CHURCH PRESCHOOL**

Friday 18th December 2020

Dear Parents & Carers

A busy Autumn term comes to a close and Preschool will finish **today** the 18th with a fun last day of games, music & party snacks as well as a special (COVID secure!) visit from the man in red bearing gifts!! We hope the children have enjoyed this term, especially if it is their first one with us, despite all the systems we have had to put in place due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

Despite the restrictions, we did manage to show our Christmas Celebration on line on the 10th – a new experience for us all! Thank you to those who were able to join us & for your positive feedback. The children did a fantastic job especially as we had had a few absences in the weeks leading up to the big day! By now hopefully you have all seen some of the photos of this event on our website and have viewed the final version on YouTube. If not, check out [www.woodleybaptistchurchpreschool.org](http://www.woodleybaptistchurchpreschool.org) and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HxjUDNLzc_0&feature=youtu.be>

****Also, don’t forget the virtual activities and services at the Church over the Christmas period, particularly the Family Fun session on Christmas Eve, for which you have had leaflets. Visit the website at [www.woodleybc.org](http://www.woodleybc.org) for more details.

Thank you again to everyone who supported our CHILDREN IN NEED week in November. We raised £75.00 for this charity. Congratulations to Jesse and Evie for winning the prizes in the colouring Pudsey competition. Well done to everybody who took part.

Everyone has now had the opportunity to speak to their child’s Key Person and read the *Learning Journeys*. Thank you for joining us at the socially distant sessions across a number of mornings. A lot of work is done to create this record https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HxjUDNLzc\_0&feature=youtu.be of how the children grow and develop during their time with us, so it is good to hear that they are appreciated. As usual, please find with this Newsletter a ‘Sharing Observations from Home’ form for you to use to tell us about things your child has done or achievements made that we can include in their *Journeys* and share with the individual child. Despite the COVID rules, there may be some exciting things in the Christmas holidays that you could share with us. We do encourage the use of these forms in order to keep our partnership with parents/carers ongoing, especially in these difficult times when staff have limited opportunities to informally chat to everyone.

A reminder to parents of those children who will be going to Primary school in September 2021 that the Applications process began on 13th November. You have to apply for a school place on the Citizens Portal School admissions website at https://schoolsonline.wokingham.gov.uk/CitizenPortal. The deadline for applications is 15th January 2021. If anyone needs support or advice on their application you can contact the School admissions team on 0118 9746000 or at schooladmissions@wokingham.gov.uk.

Everyone who ordered photographs should have received their pictures or digital download by now. Should there be any queries please go to <https://www.dianefrazerphotography.co.uk>

Now that the weather is getting colder can the children have suitable **NAMED** outdoor clothing/footwear as they always have access to the garden. For safety reasons please do not leave any plastic or drawstring bags on coat pegs. **NAMED** bags can be left in the designated area in the Church hall. **Please ensure there is no food, drink or medication left in these bags.** We would also ask that children wear plenty of warm layers to Preschool. Due to COVID-19 protocols our room has to be ventilated at all times and windows and doors will be open throughout the morning.

We continue to work hard to ensure Preschool remains open during this difficult time of the pandemic and in doing so protect both staff and children. We **HAVE TO** follow all the general rules – such as those about social distancing; wearing face coverings & taking tests if showing symptoms - sent to us by GOV.UK, as well as specific Early Years guidelines from the Department of Education & Public Health England. It is **VITAL** that any requests we make of you are adhered to please; one of the most important ones being that should anyone in your family show symptoms you get tested and **NOONE** attends the setting whilst awaiting results. To reiterate a recent email, if siblings are off school due to COVID-19 closures, where possible they should not accompany you to Preschool but if it is necessary to do so that they wait outside the building or in the Church foyer only. Thank you for your anticipated support.

**DATES FOR DIARIES:**

**LAST DAY OF TERM – Friday 18th December 2020**

**FIRST DAY OF SPRING TERM – Monday 4th January 2021**

**NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING – Tuesday 19th January 2021**

**HALF TERM – 15th to 19th February 2021**

**END OF SPRING TERM – THURSDAY 1st April 2021**

If any of your contact details have recently changed, especially mobile phone numbers and email addresses, please don’t forget keep us informed!

Finally, should you have any questions, queries or comments please speak to a member of staff.

Thank you as always for your support of Preschool. Have a lovely Christmas break.

Tel: 9699956 Website: [www.woodleybaptistchurchpreschool.org](http://www.woodleybaptistchurchpreschool.org)

 Email: preschool@woodleybc.org

Can we just remind everyone that if your child is sick or you have a last minute day out/at home for example, please could you telephone to let us know as early as possible? Please inform us in advance of any holidays, doctor’s appointments or hospital visits. If you know your child is going to be late in for any reason, try and let us know at the session before. **PLEASE NOTE**: if no contact has been made with us by 10.30am staff will make contact with you so the reason for absence can be recorded.